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OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

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September 28, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room TW-A306  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: CC Docket No. 96-45**  
**Year 2006 Certification of Rural Carriers for Receipt of High-Cost Funds**  
**Year 2006 Certification for Rate Comparability Review for Non-rural Carriers**  
**Serving in Rural Areas**

The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("MDTE") respectfully submits this filing in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission") requirement that state commissions certify that rural carriers are using high-cost funds in a manner consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act and in compliance with the Commission's requirement that each state annually review the comparability of residential rates in rural areas of the state served by non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs") to urban rates nationwide and certify to the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company as to whether the rates are reasonably comparable.

The MDTE certifies that the following rural carriers will use funds received for year 2006 rural high-cost support (including high-cost loop support, local switching support, high-cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high-cost model support, and hold harmless support) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act:

Richmond Telephone Company (study area code 110037)  
Granby Telephone & Telegraph Company (study area code 110036)  
Taconic Telephone Corp. (study area code 150084)

With respect to the Commission's annual rate comparability certification requirement, the MDTE certifies that the residential rates in rural areas served by the non-rural ILEC, Verizon, in Massachusetts are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide. As a result of basic residential rate averaging, there is no disparity between residential rates in non-rural and rural areas served by the non-rural ILEC in Massachusetts.

Should the Commission require any additional information concerning this matter, kindly contact me at (617) 305-3744.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Isenberg  
Director, Telecommunications Division